

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Takanori SHINOKI et al.

Serial No. 09/529,255

Filed April 11, 2000



: **Confirmation No. 5270**

: Attorney Docket No. 2000_0465A

: Group Art Unit 1771

: Examiner Jennifer A. Boyd

SUPPORT MEMBER FOR SEMIPERMEABLE MEMBRANE **Mail Stop: Amendment**

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

This is responsive to the Official Action dated December 23, 2005, the time for responding thereto being extended for one month in accordance with a petition for extension submitted concurrently herewith.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks and the attached Declaration under Rule 132 of Mr. Takanori Shinoki.

Claims 9 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The phrase "except for conjugate fiber" is taken to be new matter, on the basis that this negative limitation is not literally supported by the specification.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's position. An Applicant has the right to exclude from the scope of his invention any subject matter which is described in the specification. The instant specification describes conjugate fiber as being originally contemplated within the scope of his invention. See page 15, line 20. Accordingly, it is appropriate for the claims to be amended to exclude conjugate fiber when it is necessary to define over the prior art or is otherwise desirable.